



March 23, 2021

Secretary Xavier Becerra
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the new Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) looks forward to working with you and your team to strengthen our nation's medical products supply chain. To assist in these efforts, HIDA is attaching our white paper, "Building A More Robust Supply Chain: A Public-Private Framework to Create A Pandemic Response Infrastructure."

The white paper outlines our belief that a strong public/private partnership is essential for future preparedness efforts. We can work together to:

1. Make the supply chain more robust, utilizing the nation's 500 commercial distribution centers to forward deploy critical products
2. Diversify sourcing
3. Expand and support surge manufacturing capacity and
4. Prevent development of a fraudulent opportunistic marketplace.

Throughout this pandemic, America's medical products distributors have collaborated with the federal government as trusted partners. Every day, our distributors are leveraging their existing infrastructure to reliably deliver essential medical supplies the last mile into the hands of providers. In 2020, HIDA members distributed more than 51 billion units of PPE including 1200% more N95 respirators and 150% more face masks than the year before.

Medical products distributors are a critical component of the country's public health infrastructure. Our nation's more than 200 medical products distribution companies provide logistics expertise essential to handling 650 million orders every year. Our vast distribution network reaches provider locations across all care settings. This includes 6,000 hospitals, 15,600 nursing homes, 28,900 assisted living facilities, 12,200 home health agencies, 267,000 laboratories, and 230,000 physician offices and clinic.

HIDA appreciates the important work ahead, and we look forward to working with you on long-term solutions. If you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to Linda Rouse O'Neill, VP of Government Affairs at rouse@hida.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew J. Rowan".

Matthew J. Rowan
President & CEO